

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01566 231858Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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P R 231606Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3319

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1566

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, MILI, VS

SUBJ: AMERICAN PRISONERS AND DEAD IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: STATE 119481

1. IN COMPLIANCE REFTTEL MCAULIFFE MET WITH DEPFONMIN RACZ MORNING MAY 23. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS HAD RECEIVED FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO RENEW AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN HOST GOVERNMENT OUR INQUIRIES ABOUT AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD CAPTIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

HE CITED PRESS REPORTS THAT HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL OTHER ENVOYS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD MET AND CONFERRED WITH PRG FONMIN IN SAIGON ON MAY 18. HE INQUIRED WHETHER DURING HUNGARIAN DIPLOMAT'S CONVERSATION WITH MADAME BINH QUESTION OF CAPTIVE AMERICAN CIVILIANS HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01566 231858Z

BEEN RAISED.

2. RACZ REPLIED THAT PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE. HE SAID NO HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR IS RESIDENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THAT HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR VIENTIANE HAD TRAVELLED TO SAIGON FOR MAY 18 GATHERING WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY FESTIVE OCCASION. HE EXPLAINED THAT SINCE "MILITARY ADMINISTRATION" STILL GOVERNS IN SAIGON, THERE ARE NO PROPERLY ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. HE ADDED THAT GOH HAS NOT YET REACHED DECISION ABOUT OPENING RELATIONS WITH SAIGON. HE ALSO SAID MFA RECEIVED REPORT FROM HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR VIENTIANE AND THAT NEITHER THIS ISSUE NOR "ANY SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS OF THIS SORT" HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR WITH SAIGON OFFICIALDOM. RACZ SAID HE ASSUMED THAT EMBASSY WARSAW WAS MAKING SIMILAR REPRESENTATION TO POLISH AUTHORITIES. MCAULIFFE SAID THIS WAS SO.

3. MCAULIFFE THEN GAVE RACZ LIST OF NAMES AND IDENTIFYING DATA (SAIGON 3154), PLUS THAT OF JAMES F. LEWIS (STATE 119481), POINTING OUT THAT ALL REPEAT ALL ARE PRIVATE CITIZENS EXCEPT STRUHARIK AND LEWIS. RACZ SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND CONCERN FELT BY WASHINGTON AND BY RELATIVES IN U.S. HE PROMISED TO DISCUSS MATTER TODAY WITH "OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" IN BUDAPEST TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT COULD BE DONE. SPEAKING "PERSONALLY" RACZ THEN INQUIRED WHETHER MCAULIFFE OR OTHER AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRG DIPLOMATS RESIDENT ABROAD. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT APPROACH TO PRG DIPLOMATS IN FOREIGN CAPITALS WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION BY U.S. AUTHORITIES; AND THAT, AT ANY RATE, THAT CHANNEL CONSTITUTES AN ADDITIONAL OPTION WHICH SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. AFTER THANKING DEPFONMIN FOR HIS SUGGESTION, MCAULIFFE SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT PRG DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT INSTRUCTIONS WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE SENT TO OTHER AMERICAN EMBASSIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT GOH AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS THAT WISH TO HELP U.S. EFFECT RELEASE THESE CIVILIAN CAPTIVES MIGHT ALSO WISH RAISE MATTER WITH PRG DIPLOMATS RESIDENT IN THEIR CAPITALS.

4. ALSO SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS,
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PAGE 03 BUDAPE 01566 231858Z

MCAULIFFE SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY FACT THAT THESE AMERICAN CITIZENS HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED AND EXPELLED FROM SVN. IT WAS HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT NEW ADMINISTRATIONS COMING TO POWER AFTER MAJOR POLITICAL UPHEAVAL ARE XENOPHOBIC AND PRONE TO EXPEL FOREIGNERS AND ALIEN INFLUENCES VERY QUICKLY. HE WONDERED WHY THIS HAD NOT OCCURRED IN THE PRESENT CASE. RACZ AGREED AND SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

5. JUST BEFORE LEAVING, MCAULIFFE SAID RACZ VERY FAMILIAR WITH WAY USG OPERATES AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS HENCE MCAULIFFE WERE TO REQUEST ANOTHER APPOINTMENT WITH HIM TO FOLLOW UP FURTHER ON THIS MATTER.

6. COMMENT: I HAVE THE FEELING WE ARE TUGGING ON A LIMP HUNGARIAN ROPE WHICH HAS NO PULL IN SAIGON.
MCAULIFFE

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NNN

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